

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Air Pouch

2003

HUL-A- 516

~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

21 April 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

LINCOLN

KUGOWN

Comments on HEG-A-887

1. It is time (actually long past time) that LINCOLN expressed <sup>appreciation</sup> to TRANGER, RAZMARA, ESSENCE and the many subordinates of ESSENCE for the vigorous, valiant and profitable manner in which they have been and are conducting their operations. There is no lack of understanding at LINCOLN for the difficulties encountered, the stresses and strains on morale, the inevitably constant apprehension and the often discouraging atmosphere which necessarily dog and bedevil an operation such as this one. All that notwithstanding, results appear to have been achieved which exceed any expectations that could reasonably have been entertained several months ago. The ESSENCE complex and its works are of a somewhat elusive variety, so that the officers concerned with it probably do not have the immediate, tangible satisfactions that go with the pursuit of a more highly structured operation. But the atmosphere in the country and the spirit of the people that have plainly been created by the ESSENCE operation, elusive though it may be, is an indispensable stepping-stone to the success to which we all aspire. LINCOLN recognizes the primary role of the ESSENCE operation in the psychological conditioning of the Guatemalan people and there is not now nor will there be any inclination to forget that. Again, our thanks and congratulations for a job which is being well-handled and which has even greater promise in the future.

2. Your recommendation that daily operational reports substitute for the weekly procedure is accepted. The weekly recapitulation, when it is purely a formal matter, will not be necessary. However, at any time that you feel it important to write an evaluation or interpretation beyond the day-to-day reporting, this will be most useful to LINCOLN.

3. LINCOLN is pleased to note the re-appearance of El Rebelde and wishes to remind you of its previous guidance to the effect that it is more important to keep El Rebelde in circulation than to publish particularly hard-hitting

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material in it, at least for the present time. This is particularly true in view of the fact that difficulties are being encountered in getting CEUAGE and El Combate into the country. The maintenance of at least one overt organ is essential. In this connection, you are requested to procure from ESSENCE his detailed recommendations for more effective infiltration of CEUAGE and Combate into Guatemala. We note that ESSENCE has, in the past, taken exception to some of the methods of infiltration as being insecure and as jeopardizing other operations. Has he any recommendations for more secure entry and distribution of these publications?

4. In view of the fact that there are now two State Department couriers on the Central American run, it may be possible to transport the above propaganda from [ ] to Guatemala City by official pouch. However, LINCOLN is informed that the courier does not have to accept packages weighing more than two pounds. This, of course, would greatly impede the sending of propaganda by pouch. [ ] is being queried to see whether this restriction can be modified so that parcels weighing perhaps fifteen to twenty pounds can be sent by Tuesday courier from [ ] to Guatemala City. Your comments are requested as to the feasibility of receiving such parcels at your end and transmitting them in a secure manner via RAZMARA to ESSENCE for his distribution. Would ESSENCE wish or be willing to undertake CEUAGE and Combate distribution? This proposal to send propaganda through the pouch will not be implemented until it has been carefully reviewed both with you and with [ ]

5. LINCOLN is very much impressed by the success and appropriateness of the rumours that have been spread in the Tiquisate and other areas, to the effect that anyone who is pro-government or Communist is being placed on a black list and will be punished in the future. We can only urge the obvious, namely, that this type of rumour (particularly that the government wants the campesinos for cannon fodder) be given the widest possible distribution throughout all Guatemala. The same thing applies to the issuing of cards, certifying that the bearers are anti-Communist. We recommend the following amplification of this theme to your consideration:

a. Place such a card, certifying that the bearer is anti-Communist, in an issue of El Rebelde, in the form of an advertisement or in the form of a separate card stapled to the newspaper. The advertisement of the card should bear a place, not only for the signature of the professed anti-Communist, but also for the signatures of two witnesses who will testify that he has indeed been anti-Communist. The reader could then be urged to send the thrice-signed card into CEUA or El Rebelde for counter-signing. It is realized that few persons will be willing to take the risks inherent in this procedure, but the effect will be substantial without anyone actually signing the cards. In any event, if El Rebelde embarks on this scheme, subsequent issues of the paper should report that a notional number of cards have been turned in and duly counter-signed.

- b. If feasible, the CEUA people might take ads in the independent papers and reprint, in the space of the ad, such an anti-Communist certificate, with instructions as proposed for El Rebelde.
6. For your information, LINCOLN is preparing a number of stickers and handbills on the above theme. Some of them will simply say "A Communist lives here" and are designed to be pasted on houses. Others will bear the legend "The Black List—Arbens, Fortuny, Gutierrez—You?" There will also be white-list stickers, headed by "Castillo Armas", "Fulano de Tal anti-Communist" and also carrying the question "Yes?" These stickers will not be ready for some time; any advance action that ESSENCE wishes to take on them or on themes and stickers of this type is left to your discretion.
7. Would it be possible for you to recapitulate the rumours and events, favorable to our cause, occurring in the Tiquisate area and publish a manifesto from Tiquisate and give it wide distribution?
8. Our congratulations on the "Carta Abierta." Documents of this type fit well with the type of more local propaganda that ESSENCE has long been proposing, not because they are of specific local origin, but because they appeal to the popular audience. It is possible that your various filiales, if subsidized through ESSENCE, can produce numerous documents of this type.
9. The information contained in Enclosure five of HGG-A-887 was cabled to [ ]
10. With regard to Enclosure 7, paragraph 4, to HGG-A-887, it might be profitable to tell people like [ ] that, if they will put out and distribute a new article or leaflet, ESSENCE will then help them to finance the previous one. As regards the statements that Francisco MORAZAN made at a private dinner on 1 April, these are ideal for dissemination by rumour.
11. For the period 15 April to 15 May, LINCOLN again will make available to you \$25,000 for ESSENCE activities. As previously stated, this sum is set so that ESSENCE activities will not suffer at all for want of money.
12. Please advise at your earliest convenience whether the jeep and motorcycle referred to in previous communications as desired by ESSENCE have in fact been purchased.
13. Please be advised that a great deal of the material contained in your running reports will be extremely useful to the SHERWOOD operation.

JCD/JTN/eaf  
20 April 1954

Distribution

- 2 - Guatemala
- 2 - Washington
- 3 - LINCOLN

JEROME C. DUNBAR

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